

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. Cancelled.
2. (New) A method of launching a software application in a hand-held device, comprising:
 - receiving an abbreviated textual command in a natural language search engine;
 - while receiving the abbreviated textual command, performing the steps of:
 - searching a natural language database that stores a data set of abbreviated textual commands and associated application commands;
 - analyzing historical preferences to determine one or more probable complete commands matching a currently received portion of the abbreviated textual command; and
 - displaying a list of probable complete commands matching the currently received portion of the abbreviated textual command.
3. (New) The method of claim 2, comprising the additional step of:
 - if a user selects a complete command from the list, then setting the complete command as the abbreviated textual command, and executing the associated application command.
4. (New) The method of claim 2, comprising the additional step of:
 - if a user does not select a complete command from the list, then receiving an entire abbreviated textual command in the natural language search engine.
5. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
 - if the abbreviated textual command has an exact match in the data set, then setting the exact match as a user command;

if the abbreviated textual command does not have an exact match in the data set, then analyzing historical preferences to determine if the abbreviated textual command has a probable match in the data set;

if the abbreviated textual command has a probable match in the data set, then setting the probable match as the user command;

if the abbreviated textual command does not have a probable match in the data set, then presenting a list of possible commands, receiving a command choice, and setting the command choice as the user command; and

executing the user command.

6. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of analyzing historical preferences is performed using a set of probability factors that are generated based on historical preferences, where the abbreviated textual command has a probable match in the data set when a probability factor associated with the probable match is greater than a predetermined value.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the predetermined value is defined by a user.

8. (New) The method of claim 6, comprising the additional step of:

adjusting the set of probability factors each time the abbreviated textual command is entered into the hand-held device.

9. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein:

the abbreviated textual command has a first component and a second component, wherein the first component represents a desired application command, and the second component represents a desired application tag; and

the natural language database stores a data set of abbreviated textual commands and associated application commands and tags.

10. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the abbreviated textual command is entered into a graphical dialog box.

11. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the natural language search engine can receive the abbreviated textual command while any of the software applications are executing.

12. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the list of possible commands presented if the abbreviated textual command does not have a probable match in the data set includes a set of recently executed application commands.

13. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the list of possible commands presented if the abbreviated textual command does not have a probable match in the data set includes a set of generic application commands that the natural language search engine is capable of executing.

14. (New) A hand-held device, comprising:

a plurality of software applications;

an input device;

a natural language search engine operable to receive a two-part keystroke combination from the input device, the two-part keystroke combination having a first component and a second component;

the natural language search engine being further operable to match the first component with a desired application command, match the second component with a desired application tag, execute the desired application command, and retrieve data associated with the application command using the desired application tag.

15. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein executing the application command launches a software application.

16. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, further comprising:

a natural language database configured to store a data set of keystroke combinations and associated application commands, the natural language database being used by the natural language search engine to match the keystroke combination with the desired application command.

17. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the data set includes probability factors that represent a probability that the application command is desired by a user when a corresponding keystroke combination is entered.

18. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the natural language search engine can receive keystroke combinations while any of the software applications are executing.

19. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the keystroke combination is entered into a graphical dialog box.

20. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, further comprising:

a home screen that is a graphical interface between a user and the natural language search engine.

21. (New) The hand-held device of claim 20, wherein the home screen includes an icon ribbon having a plurality of icons, and wherein a user may launch one of the software applications by either selecting one of the icons or entering a keystroke combination.

22. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the natural language search engine is operative to match the keystroke combination with the desired application command by presenting a user with a list of likely command choices.

23. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the input device is a trackwheel.

24. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the input device is a touchpad.

25. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the input device is a keyboard.

26. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the input device is a stylus.

27. (New) The hand-held device of claim 14, wherein the input device is a mouse.

28. (New) In a mobile device having a graphical input device and a textual input device, a method comprising:

displaying an icon ribbon having a plurality of icons on the graphical input device;
if a user selects one of the icons via the graphical input device, then executing an application command associated with the icon; and
if the user enters a two-part abbreviated textual command via the textual input device, then receiving the two-part abbreviated textual command in a natural language search engine, matching the first component with a desired application command, matching the second component with a desired application tag, executing the desired application command, and retrieving data associated with the application command using the desired application tag.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein a natural language database stores a data set of abbreviated textual commands and associated application commands and tags.
30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the abbreviated textual command is entered into a graphical dialog box.
31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the natural language search engine can receive the abbreviated textual command while any of the software applications are executing.
32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the graphical input device is a thumbwheel.
33. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the graphical input device is a touchpad.
34. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the graphical input device is a mouse.
35. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the graphical input device is a stylus.
36. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the textual input device is a keyboard.